(c) what are the details thereof and what further steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir. However, complaints are occasionally received in this regard.

(b) and (c) The oil companies and the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations conduct regular and surprise inspections of retail outlets periodically to check *inter-alia* quality and quantity of the products and take action against the defaulters under the Marketing *Discipline Guidelines and the law/regulations* in force.

Over 18600 inspections have been conducted during the last 6 months. No case of proven adulteration has been detected. Some cases of suspected adulteration have been reported. Oil Companies have taken suitable actions such as suspension of supplies for 15 days, issuing of warnings, etc. in appropriate cases. In other cases, the State authorities have initiated necessary action.

The State Govts. have been advised to review for cancellation or non-renewal of cases where licences for storage etc. of MS/HSD have been granted by local authorities to persons other than dealers of oil marketing companies in order to prevent malpractices in the sale of petroleum products. They have been advised also to take preventive and punitive action against those who store and sell petroleum products without any valid licences, etc. This is being periodically/regularly pursued with the respective States/Union Territories.

Oil and Gas Exploration in Onshore and Offshore Areas

938. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to intensify oil and gas exploration in both onshore and offshore areas;

(b) if so, what are the details of the sites identified for this task;

(c) by when the exploration work will start at these places; and

(d) to what extent the oil and gas crisis will be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Intensification of exploratory activities during the VII Plan period is planned in the following sedimentary basins:—

(1) Cambay

(2) Upper Assam

(3) Assam-Arakan Fold belt covering Cachar, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh

(4) Rajasthan

(5) Himalayan Foothills and Ganga Valley

(6) Krishna-Godavari (both onland and offshore)

(7) Cauvery (both onland & offshore)

(8) West Bengal (both onland & offshore)

(9) Kutch-Saurashtra (both onland & offshore)

(10 Bombay offshore

(11) Kerala-Konkon (offshore)

(12) Andamans (offshore)

The exploration work is already continuing in these basins.

(d) It is not possible to quantify the results of exploration at this stage.

Hiring Foreign Fairms to Explore Oil and Natural Gas

939. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt. propose to hire foreign firms to explore oil and natural gas in the country's offshore basins;

(b) if so, what are the details of the foreign firms whom Govt. have invited for the said task;

(c) whether any indigenous firm has offered its services for the said task; and

(d) if so, what steps Govt. propose to take to encourage indigenous firms instead of foreign firms for the said task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAM DUTT): (a) and (b) Government had invited bids from experienced international oil companies for 27 offshore blocks. The last date for receipt of bids was 1st December, 1986. Twelve offers have been received from seven oil companies for nine blocks as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of the company	Name of the block
1	(i) Albion International Resources Inc.	KG-OS-VII. C-OS-V.
	(ii) Alber-ford Resources Limited	
	(iii) Western Energy Resources Inc.	
	(iv) G.W. Resources Corporaiton	
	(v) Cordura Exploration Company	
2	AMOCO, USA	KG-OS-V
3	Britoil, UK	KG-OS-I
4	BHP Petroluem, Australia	KG-OS-I,KK-OS-VI
5	(i) Chevron	KG-OS-I. KG-OS-I,KG-OS-VII
	(ii) Texace	P-OS-II
6	International Petroleum Corporation Dubai	KG-OS-IV.
7	Shell International Petroleum, Netherlands	KK-OS-IV, KK-OS-II.

(c) and (d) Apart from this a letter from M/s. Tata Chemicals Limited was received offering to explore in Saurashtra offshore block without indicating the bid details that had been sought from the bidders. Clarifications were sought from them to which no reply has been received.

Exploration for Oil and Gas in M. P.

940. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has identified certain locations in Madhya Pradesh where oil and natural gas are likely to be struck;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the work in this connection is proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) ONGC have identified locations at Anhoni, Tamia and Dewari to conduct parametric drilling. These are expected to provide information on subsurface geology of Gondwana sediments in Madhya Pradesh: further exploration, including drilling, would depend upon the data obtained.

Progress in Shifting of the LPG Bottling Plant from Shakurbasti, Delhi

941. SHRI J.P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 242 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1987 and state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in shifting the LPG bottling plant from Shakurbasti, Delhi;

(b) whether the new sites for locating the LPG bottling plant have been developed and if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what safety measures are being provided at the new sites to aviod recurrence of incidents of fire and blast like the one which occurred in 1983 at the